

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DEVASTATING CRISIS IN EASTERN CONGO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights held a hearing which examined U.S. policy regarding the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This conflict was exacerbated by Rwanda's interventions in neighboring eastern Congo, as documented by the release of three United Nations reports last year. These reports confirmed Rwanda's support of militia who have ravaged and continue to plague this region. The State Department was unavailable to testify at our September 19th hearing on this issue, and the subcommittee promised at that time to follow-up when State was available to testify.

In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, successive U.S. administrations have turned a blind eye to reports of Rwandan plundering of resources from the DRC and support for rebels who have devastated eastern Congo and its people. It seems that guilt over the Clinton Administration's failure responding effectively to the genocide in Rwanda has led subsequent U.S. administrations to be reluctant to criticize the Government of Rwanda.

With these UN reports on that government's behavior in the DRC, we must overcome our regret over what happened 18 years ago. As an NGO letter to President Obama points out, the United States is now out of step with our European allies, who have cut aid to Rwanda because of their interference in the DRC, as recommended by the UN Group of Experts in their recent reports. The Group of Experts also recommends imposing sanctions on responsible Rwandan officials, such as Defense Minister General James Kabarebe.

Additionally, the Government of the DRC has failed to ensure that its military adequately provides security for its citizens. In fact, the National Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) also is alleged to be a perpetrator of human rights violations in the East. Security sector reform is critical in the DRC, and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has not been able to completely train military containing elements that too often terrorize their own people instead of protecting them.

At this point, it is vital to understand what the administration intends to do about the UN reports on Rwanda's violation of the arms embargo on non-state groups in eastern DRC and how this impacts U.S. relations with Rwanda. Furthermore, we must know how the administration intends to deal with the DRC government in light of its deficiencies in security sector reform. The hearing also took a comprehensive look at who is responsible for the insecurity in eastern Congo beyond the two government and the militias.

Most attention is being paid to the M23 rebel movement in eastern Congo, and justifiably so in light of their recent seizure of territory and overall destructive impact on the people of eastern Congo. However, there are reportedly as many as two dozen armed groups terrorizing Congolese in this region. According to a November 2012 report from Oxfam, Commodities of War, nine of these militias are believed to be most prominent. They range from those with a focus on Rwanda or Uganda, those that were formed in response to the flight of perpetrators of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda to the DRC or those singularly focused on the DRC itself. Whatever the reason for their founding, these militias have terrorized the people of eastern Congo and the DRC as a whole. We must identify their support base and end the flow of arms and other aid that enables their ongoing reign of terror.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), insecurity in eastern Congo has displaced approximately 2.4 million people nationwide, especially in the East. Despite longstanding conflict in eastern Congo, OCHA estimates that the majority of displaced persons typically returns to their areas of origin within six to 18 months of their initial displacement and require minimal return assistance. While that may be true, it does not account for the kind of life Congolese will have once they can return to their homes.

Women continue to be targeted for abuse in DRC. A study that recently appeared in the American Journal of Public Health in May 2011 concluded that an average of 48 women and girls are raped every hour in this country. So, as with our February 2nd and September 19th hearings on the DRC this year, more than 100 females in DRC were raped before our hearing last month ended. Their rejection by their families and communities casts a cloud over future efforts to recreate communities destroyed by militias in the DRC. This is an issue that must be addressed by Congolese themselves—sooner rather than later.

Since our hearing in September, M23 made significant gains in territorial control, occupying Goma for 10 days while moving southward, potentially toward the South Kivu town of Bukavu. However, international pressure played a major role in the group ending its advance southward and withdrawing from Goma town by early December. DRC President Joseph Kabila's government and the M23 rebels reportedly have agreed to peace talks in Kampala sponsored by the Government of Uganda. There have been peace talks and peace accords in the DRC before, and they didn't hold. Will this effort achieve lasting peace?

The DRC is home to abundant mineral wealth, including 70 percent of the world's coltan (used to make vital components of cell phones and other electronic equipment), 30 percent of the world's diamond reserves and vast deposits of cobalt, copper and bauxite. Unfortunately, these natural resources have attracted international looters and fuelled civil war. Now oil has been discovered in eastern

DRC. Can a way be found to prevent the DRC's blessings from being turned into curses?

The tragic genocide in Rwanda in 1994 has had lasting repercussions in the DRC, but since the 1880s, resentment over the perceived influx of people considered foreigners in eastern DRC has contributed to conflict in this region, including two regional wars. Various leaders in the region have used this antipathy for political purposes, pitting their supporters against their perceived opponents. Can the inter-ethnic problems in the DRC and its neighbors be finally resolved so that a lasting peace among all the people in the DRC can be achieved?

Our witnesses last month were well-positioned to address questions regarding a path toward sustainable peace in the DRC and the obstacles that lie in that path. It is time now to find a way to bring to an end the suffering of the people of the DRC.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 9th Anniversary of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The chapter includes the communities of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and Stafford County.

Coinciding with the local chapter's 9th Anniversary is the national organization's 101st Anniversary. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on Friday evening, November 17, 1911 by three Howard University undergraduate students, Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman, and their faculty adviser, Professor Ernest E. Just. Together they laid the foundation of an organization based on the core principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. For ninety-eight years, the membership has upheld a strong tradition of friendship and civic engagement.

At this year's Annual Achievement Week Banquet, the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter honors the 2012 Achievement Week Award recipients. These awards are given to the men and women who, through their character and actions, preserve Omega Psi Phi's four founding principles. I congratulate the following individuals on being awarded these honors:

The Citizen of the Year Award: Brother Conrado Morgan.

The Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Brother Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Newman III.

Omega Man of the Year: Brother Charles Mitchell.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Basileus Special Act Awards: Brother Tony Bullock, Brother David Holliday, Brother Robert Reese, Jr., Brother Cozy Bailey, Sr., Brother Leonard Newman III, Brother Adrian Gore, Brother Jimmie Jacobs, Jr., Brother Harvey L. Woodson, Jr., Brother Trevor Hamilton, Brother Bernard Oliphant, Brother Anthony Burgess, Brother Byron Cherry, Sr., Brother Vernon Campbell, Brother Andrew McCall II, Brother Albert Woods, Brother Earl Clark, Brother Erik Noel, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Lloyd Marshall, Brother Arthur Sobers, Jr., Brother David Ballard, Brother Joseph Boutte, Brother DeSean Davis, Brother Drefus Lane, Sr., Brother Vincent Gordon, Brother William Vaughn, Jr., Brother Joseph Boutte, Brother Derrick Harris, Sr., Brother Conrado Morgan, Brother Rowland Webb, Sr., Brother Stephen Blakely, Brother Crispin Abad, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Johnny Ledbetter, Brother Matthew Mitchell, Brother Thomas Victor Montgomery III, Brother Jeffrey Allen, Brother Victor Hinton, Brother Robert Melvin, Brother Iven King, Jr., Brother Tyrone Simon, Brother Kenneth West, Brother Simon King, Brother Randall Webb, Brother Lewis Forrest I, Brother Byron Cherry, Sr., Brother Lee Bennett, Jr., Brother Elijah Jackson III.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in conveying our appreciation for eight years of civic service by the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It is civic groups like the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter that define the character of our communities and give measure to our generosity of spirit.

CORRECTING AND IMPROVING THE LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, or "AIA," which was signed into law on September 16, 2011, is the most substantial reform of U.S. patent law since the 1836 Patent Act. The AIA re-establishes the United States patent system as the global standard. The bill that we discuss today, H.R. 6621, makes necessary technical corrections to the AIA to ensure that the bill realizes its full potential to promote innovation and create jobs.

The AIA represented the culmination of nearly a decade of work by Members, key staff, and officials from both the Bush and Obama Administrations. The bill helps to bring our patent system into the 21st century and sets our nation's innovation infrastructure on the right path for decades to come.

At the center of our successful efforts to enact the AIA and this technical corrections measure over the last decade has been Blaine Merritt, the Chief Counsel of the Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet.

Blaine has been a constant and tireless public servant, who has served the American people with quiet distinction and professionalism for nearly three decades. On the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to note a few of his

many contributions to our work and to the betterment of the American people.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Blaine's congressional career began in 1985 in our office where he began his public service as a Legislative Assistant. In 1988, he was promoted to Legislative Director, a position he served in until he was called to serve on the professional staff of the Committee on the Judiciary in 1997.

Once on the Committee, Blaine was appointed Chief Counsel to the subcommittee with oversight over our intellectual property laws and courts related issues in 2000. In that capacity, Blaine served three successive Republican Chairmen—Representatives Henry Hyde, JIM SENSENBRENNER and LAMAR SMITH.

During his service on the Judiciary Committee, Blaine established himself and became recognized as one of our nation's foremost authorities on the law of patents, copyrights and trademarks as well as an expert on all matters that relate to the Federal judiciary and congressional procedure.

Blaine's contributions to landmark legislation are innumerable. Counted among the bills he helped to steer to enactment are the American Inventor's Protection Act (AIPA), the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and the aforementioned Leahy-Smith AIA of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I've been blessed to represent the good citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, from where Blaine hails, since 1985. Throughout my tenure, I and countless other Members of the "People's House" have benefited from his sound counsel, seasoned judgment and quiet leadership.

As Blaine embarks upon the next phase of his career, I hope he takes a little time to relax and watch his beloved "Blue Devils" basketball team that is undefeated and ranked number one in the Nation. I thank my friend for his invaluable service and wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" always.

RECOGNIZING LYLE W. MINTER AND HIS 36 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Lyle W. Minter, of Fairfax, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of Federal service. Mr. Minter's professional achievements are numerous, and I know he would be the first to acknowledge that none of them would have been possible without the support of his wife, Nancy.

Lyle graduated in 1975 from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in History. While at the University of Virginia, Lyle was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his Master of Library Science in 1976 from the University of Maryland. While at the University of Maryland, Lyle was elected to Beta Phi Mu.

Lyle began his distinguished Federal career as a civilian employee with the Department of the Army. He worked as the librarian at two Army posts in Virginia before being reassigned to the Pentagon Library as a reference librarian. He later was selected as head of the Reference Section and managed research sup-

port, general reference, and online database searching for the Pentagon Library's 50,000 patrons.

Lyle came to the Library of Congress in 1991 as Head of the Government Publications and Periodicals Section in the Serial and Government Publications Division. In that position he managed the automation of the serial binding preparation process and was instrumental in implementing a number of other enhancements and services, which enabled increased access to the Library of Congress collections for Members of Congress and the research community who utilize that institution and its vast collections. Lyle then was reassigned as Head of the Newspaper and Current Periodical Division, where he managed the Library's busiest public service point and implemented such innovations as virtual reference and online collection guides. Lyle came to the Congressional Research Service in 2005 as a Supervisory Information Research Specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division where he manages a team of employees who respond to requests from the United States Congress. He has remained in that position until the time of his retirement.

Throughout his career, Lyle has been actively engaged in the professional librarian community as a member of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), and he has received several awards for his service. He was elected a Fellow of SLA in 2004 and received the Gale Cengage Learning Murray Wortzel Award in recognition of Excellence in Social Science Librarianship in 2011. Lyle particularly enjoys teaching and mentoring information professionals, and his dedication to mentoring librarians and others in the field of librarianship has been a benchmark of his career.

As Lyle begins the next chapter of his life, he intends to spend time with friends and family, teach, travel, and continue volunteering in his community and in his profession. Lyle Minter has excelled throughout his distinguished Federal career, and I am honored to pay tribute to this conscientious and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lyle Minter for his many years of dedicated Federal service. I wish Lyle and his wife, Nancy, continued happiness as they enter this next phase of their lives.

AMERICAN TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently the Senate came together on a bipartisan basis to address our looming fiscal crisis. I appreciate the statesmanship of President Obama and Vice President Biden to make every effort to avoid the most harmful effects of the "fiscal cliff."

Last night's vote in the House was one of the hardest votes I have cast in my tenure in Congress. The agreement was not a perfect proposal, but it avoided serious damage to our national economy. One of my concerns about the measure is that it did not generate nearly enough revenue. I am afraid that the haste

and the lack of detailed effort will ultimately translate to a series of tax hikes and spending cuts in future years that will negatively impact the middle class and the poor.

I have serious reservations about any attempt to cut benefits in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I am committed to evaluating the impact of the funding used to pay for the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR or "doc fix"). I strongly oppose cuts to services for diabetes, end stage renal disease, and other illnesses disproportionately impacting my constituents. As a non-practicing registered nurse, I know how devastating these cuts would be for medical services in underserved communities.

Another worthy program that is very important to my constituents is the Qualifying Individual (QI) program. The program allows Medicaid to pay the Medicare Part B premiums for low-income Medicare beneficiaries with incomes between 120 percent and 135 percent of poverty. Under current law, QI expired December 31, 2012. The agreement extends the QI program until December 31, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I have five major hospitals in my congressional district that not only serve my constituents, but the entire North Texas population. The measure states that qualifying low-volume hospitals receive add-on payments based on the number of Medicare discharges. To qualify, the hospital must have less than 1,600 Medicare discharges and be 15 miles or greater from the nearest like hospital. This provision extends the payment adjustment until December 31, 2013. The Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) program in the bill provides enhanced reimbursement to support rural health infrastructure and to support small rural hospitals for which Medicare patients make up a significant percentage of inpatient days or discharges. This greater dependence on Medicare may make these hospitals more financially vulnerable to prospective payment, and the MDH designation is designed to reduce this risk. This provision extends the MDH program until October 1, 2013.

I am pleased to see that the Senate approved a one-year extension of unemployment insurance benefits, providing necessary support for those looking to return to work as the economy recovers. I am also pleased to learn that deep cuts for many important programs that support the most vulnerable and provide pathways to prosperity for millions of Americans, including Head Start and WIC, were delayed. I would have preferred to see a long term extensions to these critical provisions.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, I do not agree with many of the details of the compromise, but I cast my vote for the bill for the greater national interest. I will continue to mitigate any negative impact of cuts on communities of color and other vulnerable populations in the ongoing negotiations on sequestration and the debt ceiling.

We must ultimately find a way not to fall into a deep economic crisis, and to further strengthen our middle class. I hope all of my colleagues as well as the Leadership continues to work on these issues and that it ultimately reflect solid bipartisan collaboration for the incoming 113th Congress.

SHARING A NEWS STORY ON THE PROUD TRADITION OF INCLUSIVENESS FOUND IN RESTON, VA.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues a poignant story from a local newspaper about the experiences of a prominent African-American veteran and corporate leader in our community who was an early pioneer in breaking down the barriers of segregation. When Carlos Campbell and his family settled in Northern Virginia in the late 1960s, they found a certain amount of intolerance, but they were pleasantly surprised by the welcome they received in the new town of Reston, which at the time was a rare "open" community in Virginia. This story about Mr. Campbell, as reported by Gregg MacDonald of The Fairfax Times, is just one of the many things that make Reston such a wonderful community, which I am proud to represent.

[From the Fairfax Times]

NAVY PILOT, BOARD DIRECTOR RECALLS LIFE IN RESTON AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN
(By Gregg MacDonald)

As a young African-American boy growing up in Harlem, Carlos C. Campbell, now 75, lived two streets down from Brooklyn Dodgers baseball player Jackie Robinson and used to wave at Robinson as he left his home on the way to Ebbets Field.

He later befriended jazz and football legends Dizzy Gillespie and Jim Brown, and worked as an actor with Charlton Heston and Robert Wagner and as a musician with jazz drummer Buddy Rich. He has written books, made films, flown planes for the U.S. Navy, worked for former President Ronald Reagan and the Defense Intelligence Agency, for the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a city planner, and was elected to the D100 as one of the most influential directors of corporate boards by the National Association of Corporate Directors.

But when Campbell moved to Northern Virginia in 1968, he said that because of segregation and discrimination, he could not buy a home.

"I looked at 39 different places and it was always the same line," he said. "I'm sorry, sir, we do not practice open occupancy. It was very humiliating to be turned down for a residence for someone who had served his country during the Cuban Missile Crisis and had resolved to die if that's what it took to protect it."

Campbell said that while he was looking, he remembered a place called Reston that he had read about while a Navy aviator. "In 1965 or so, Reston had gotten a lot of ink as an open community, so I eventually remembered hearing about it and decided to check it out."

Chuck Veatch, an early Reston sales employee, remembers that time well.

"Because Reston in the 1960s was an 'open' community within a segregated state that had no fair housing laws, we had a hard time with market resistance in terms of blacks," Veatch said. "We in Reston had no issues at all, but because Realtors did not sell our homes there was some resentment, and the real estate brokerage community used the race card against us, to sell against us, and tell people they didn't want to live in Reston."

Married and with two daughters, Campbell purchased his first Reston home, in Vantage Hill, in October 1968. He soon went to work for the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.

"It was great to finally be able to find a community in which we were tolerated," he said. "But it was still no piece of cake."

Campbell estimates that at that time, Reston consisted of about 1,500 people, about four percent of whom were African American.

"There was a group of Reston African Americans formed back then who called themselves the Reston Black Focus. I wasn't initially a part of the group, but they would have get-togethers and invite everyone. Afterwards random people would come up to me and say, 'Man, you guys throw great parties' and I would say, 'OK, thanks.'"

According to Campbell, although Reston was an open community, the surrounding areas of Fairfax County still were not quite there yet.

"Leaving Reston, we would be reminded of what it was really like," he said.

"Everywhere I went, people in their cars slowed down and asked me if I was a Washington Redskin, but I guess that was better than them yelling 'nigger' out of the window as they went by, which also would happen."

Campbell said his family also felt the effects of discrimination.

"Beauty parlors would refuse to style my wife's hair, and a swimming pool once closed down, rather than let my little girl get in the water," he said.

Campbell said that even in Reston during that time, African Americans often were under a microscope, and whites were not sure how to interact with them. On several occasions he said he discovered people rifling through his garbage cans, who then ran off when confronted.

"I would also occasionally get a knock on my door and someone would ask me what I did for a living, or ask me if I needed a job," he said. "I also used to jog and would invariably get stopped by police who would often say they were looking for a robbery suspect."

But overall, Campbell said life in Reston was always positive. He later moved to Golf Course Island in 1970, but has remained in Reston for 44 years.

"Reston was always a great place," he said. "As an African American here, I was always tolerated, and as the years went by, Reston transcended that tolerance into acceptance. I felt less like a guinea pig and more of a citizen and a member of this community. Discrimination and intolerance still exist, but it is not as overt as it once was. I am glad Reston existed when it did and I'm content to continue living here and giving back."

HONORING JENNI RIVERA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jenni Rivera. On December 9, a plane crash took the life of the singer and six others on board. Jenni Rivera was known as "La Diva de la Banda," the queen of Banda music. But she was much more than a music superstar; she was "una guerrera," a warrior for her family, and a role model to many. She faced monumental challenges in life, but tackled them with dignity and determination. At the

public celebration of her life this week, her family described her as being “perfectly imperfect,” but to the millions of us moved by her music and her life story, she was and will always be “nuestra Jenni,” La Diva de la Banda. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this beautiful guerrera, a guerrera of life and of music.

COMMENDING SENIOR AIRMAN
VERONICA COX ON HER EFFORTS
FOLLOWING THE 2011 EARTH-
QUAKE IN JAPAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Airman Veronica Cox of Lorton, Virginia, for demonstrating exceptional personal and moral courage during humanitarian assistance after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that hit northeast Japan on March 11th, 2011.

Airman Cox volunteered for humanitarian assistance duty and was part of the advanced command element in the town of Sanriku-cho as an intelligence analyst. Being able to communicate fluently in Japanese, she was able to greatly assist in integrating the Japanese-U.S. response within the crucial first 24 hours as well as the days that followed. She met with the village elder and clearly communicated necessary medical and survival instructions. She flew with nine search and rescue teams and directly enabled the delivery of 3,000 pounds of food, water and medical supplies.

Three days after the earthquake, Airman Cox was able to recognize the Japanese characters asking for help spelled out by rocks on the roof of a senior-care facility. A further investigation led to the discovery of 200 Japanese civilians within the rubble of the building.

For her service during the crisis, Airman Cox and the aircrew received recognition from the Emperor of Japan. She received the Air Force Commendation Medal and was selected as a linguist for the 5th Air Force Vice Command during U.S. and Japanese Ministry of Defense-level meetings. She also received recognition and awards from the Japan Self-Defense forces and civilian organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senior Airman Veronica Cox for her tremendous service to our nation and her valiant humanitarian assistance to the people of Japan.

FINAL REFLECTION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I close my 24 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives—it has been a rare honor to serve the people of north east Florida and I'm humbled by this responsibility. In reflecting on my tenure, I'm very proud of my record of accomplishments.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve on

the Veterans Affairs Committee and to work on behalf my fellow veterans. Through these efforts, we established new VA outpatient clinics in the district, including a state of the art facility in South Marion County. In addition, we succeeded in building support for the new patient bed center at the Gainesville VA Medical Center. And, after over a decade of work, we saw my language to create a new veterans cemetery in north east Florida signed into law.

Furthermore, two measures I offered in the VA became law: the Veterans Millennium Health Care & Benefits Act improving veterans' access to long-term care; and the VA Health Care Personnel Act to increase pay for VA health care professionals.

Working with members on both sides of the aisle, one of my first achievements was gaining enactment of S. 2740 / H.R. 4237 to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. This measure deauthorized the Cross-Florida Barge Canal, and allowed the State of Florida to preserve this canal corridor as a greenway spanning the state.

Then there is the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Computers, the Internet, and other innovations transformed the national economy, making our laws and regulations outdated and burdensome. As a House conferee on this legislation, I worked with my colleagues in developing a response providing greater competition, less regulation, better service, and lower prices. And once again, Congress should work to remove the current obstacles to greater innovation that will bring more products, services, and jobs.

Most recently, my selection to lead the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations provided the chance to make our government more transparent and responsive. Through our oversight, we discouraged the implementation of overly rigorous rules and regulations that hamper economic growth and job creation.

We also discovered the waste and abuse in the Department of Energy's loan guarantee program. This risky scheme to create so-called green jobs cost taxpayers billions of dollars while yielding a few jobs. This is best exemplified by Solyndra, which received \$535 million from the taxpayers only to declare bankruptcy and becoming the target of a criminal investigation by the FBI.

In recognition of our \$16 trillion debt, I take great satisfaction in my record on fiscal responsibility. It is a distinct honor to be one of only 53 House and Senate members to receive an “A” rating from the National Taxpayers Union. In addition, my record on jobs and the economy earned recognition by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Against Government Waste, and Americans for Tax Reform.

I also owe many thanks—to so many of my colleagues, and especially to the people of Florida's Sixth District. I also thank my staff for their help in serving my constituents, my Chief of Staff Jack Seum and Paul Flusche here in Washington, and Shawna Williams, Sherrie Porter, and Jean Clough (Cluff) in the District.

Again, it has been an honor and an experience of a lifetime to serve in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA
BLACK CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE 2012 BUSINESS HONOR
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate those members who are being honored for their contributions to the business and local communities.

The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce (NVBCC) is a vibrant organization dedicated to the growth and development of African-American owned businesses in the City of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William. The Chamber provides leadership, strategic information, technical assistance, networking opportunities, and other support to more than 120 member partners, helping to ensure the growth and success of their businesses. In addition, the NVBCC actively supports area non-profits in efforts to increase the financial literacy and leadership capability of school-aged children in our area.

Each year, the NVBCC recognizes its members for their extraordinary success and contributions to the Chamber and our community. It is my honor to enter the names of the following 2012 Business Honor Award recipients into the Congressional Record:

Outstanding Emerging Business: Nationwide Insurance—The Brad Ryant Insurance Agency
Business of the Year: Valley Green Landscaping

Outstanding Corporate Partner: Intelligent Office of Alexandria

Outstanding Community Partner: Alexandria-Fairfax County Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

Member of the Year: Kim de Peiza, Key Concepts Knowledgebase, LLC

Member of the Year: Isaac Lewis, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

Outstanding Public Partner: Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2012 Business Honor Award recipients and in thanking each of them for their efforts to strengthen our local business economy and for their commitment to building a stronger community.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE WAR OF 1812 AND
THE BENJAMIN HARRISON SOCI-
ETY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and the Benjamin Harrison Society's work in bringing attention to the little known involvement of the District of Columbia in the war.

In the summer of 1814, British troops invaded our nation's capital. The poorly planned

campaign ended in the wounding of Joshua Barney and the burning of the capital city—most major public buildings were burned, including the United States Capitol and the White House. However, a brave navy commodore, Joshua Barney and flotilla of men, militia and marines, stood in the Rives' Farm of Washington, D.C., with two 18 pound cannons and three 12 pound cannons defending the nation's capital until their ammunition was depleted and the wounding of Commodore Barney. In 2009, the Benjamin Harrison Society's lead historian, Acquetta Anderson, asked volunteer archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution to conduct the archaeological excavation of U.S. Reservation 520 to confirm Barney's artillery position during the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814, using historic descriptions, archaeological prospecting, mapping and excavation. The significance of the site, besides providing insight into an example of mid-19th century architecture, was that the Rives' barns provided a reference point for determining the position of Barney's battery during the battle. Barney's two 18 pound cannons and three 12 pound cannons were described as being within several yards of this location. The excavation of the median in Bladensburg Road by the D.C. Department of Transportation in September 2011 added to the investigation. The original turnpike level could be distinguished approximately 23.6 inches below the present road surface and spring water was observed still running across the road opposite Barney's Spring. Brick fragments, presumably emanating from the second Rives' barn, were also found in the median trench, further strengthening Ms. Anderson's theory that the Battle of Bladensburg occurred both in Maryland and Washington, D.C. in Ward 5 on August 24, 1814.

The Benjamin Harrison Society should be commended for their dedication to the research of the history of Washington, D.C. and the War of 1812, Battle of Bladensburg. Their research revealed that Barney, and his flotilla of men, militia, and marines battled the British in Washington, D.C. during the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814. The archaeological knowledge gained from this project can assist the National Park Service in cultural resource management, as well as the Benjamin Harrison Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Benjamin Harrison Chapter, and the Washington, D.C. War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission with site interpretation of both the Battle of Bladensburg and the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in Washington, D.C. It will help to finalize the Commission's plans for the commemoration of the Battle of Bladensburg and the War of 1812, beginning in 2012.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the Benjamin Harrison Society and their involvement in research and commemorating the War of 1812.

RECOGNIZING DR. WYNFRED JOSHUA AS A 2012 DIA TORCH BEARERS AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wynfred Joshua, one of the 2012 recipients of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Torch Bearers Award. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant and lasting contribution to defense intelligence and whose performance also embodies the agency's core values and principles.

One of the first defense intelligence officers at DIA, Dr. Joshua retired in February of 1998 after 24 years of dedicated service. An expert on the Soviet Union and strategic nuclear capabilities, Dr. Joshua was a guiding force for DIA analytic teams throughout the Cold War era. Dr. Joshua was known throughout the intelligence community as a person of immense honesty, intelligence, and reliability.

Dr. Joshua's leadership and teaching ability also helped conserve our Nation's precious public resources. She developed and implemented a successful program to improve DIA's role in supporting the National Defense University. Her contributions not only enhanced the DIA's status within the Intelligence Community, but also provided the critical intelligence assessments that shaped our national military strategy. Dr. Joshua's dedication to DIA, the Intelligence Community, and the United States is a testament to her integrity, unwavering professionalism, and commitment to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Wynfred Joshua and thanking her for her 24 years of service and selfless dedication to the defense of our country. Her distinguished service has greatly contributed to the advancement and prestige of our Nation's intelligence capabilities.

SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act which contains a very special provision, the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act.

I first introduced this bill in the 110th Congress in honor of my dear friend, Ambassador Richard Sklar, who was a victim of pancreatic cancer, a devastating disease. Pancreatic cancer is essentially a death sentence, with very few surviving. It is only because of the families, friends, neighbors, doctors, and co-workers who have advocated for better research and treatments, that we've made it to the "finish line" legislatively after a five-year effort.

Sadly, the outcomes for those with pancreatic cancer have remained relatively unchanged since the passage of the National Cancer Act more than 40 years ago. Only 6 percent of people diagnosed with the disease live longer than 5 years, and 75 percent die

within a year of diagnosis. Pancreatic cancer remains one of the most lethal types of cancers, even as survival rates for other cancers have increased.

The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which I introduced with my colleague, Representative LEONARD LANCE, directs the National Cancer Institute to develop a long-term strategic plan for addressing recalcitrant cancers beginning with pancreatic and lung cancers. The plan will bring together the finest minds in our country with the best expertise in this area. The plans will be used by the Agency as a roadmap for navigating the best way forward in research for early detection, new diagnostic tools, treatment therapies, and even cures.

While pancreatic cancer is one of the most devastating of all "recalcitrant cancers," or those with a high mortality rate and few treatments, it is certainly not the only one that needs increased attention. I have worked closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to expand our legislation to include all recalcitrant cancers so that we can make progress in other areas, too.

I am exceedingly proud that this legislation enjoyed the bipartisan cosponsorship of 294 Members of the House and more than half the U.S. Senate with 58 bipartisan cosponsors. Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE championed the legislation with his steadfast leadership, and without him, this effort would not have ultimately been successful.

I thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work in moving the bill forward. I'm very proud of the efforts of the pancreatic cancer advocates who had the courage to share their stories with their representatives, educating them about the importance of this legislation.

I look forward to seeing the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act so we can finally bring a renewed effort to finding cures for all recalcitrant cancers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 655. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." While I support freezing pay for members of Congress, that was achieved by passage of H.R. 8, and I do not believe that it is appropriate to freeze pay for Federal employees for another year, given the sacrifices that they have already made.

RECOGNIZING ILENE GILLISPIE AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ilene Gillispie, of the Alexandria

portion of Fairfax County, a 2012 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) recipient. Ilene was selected for this competitive award based on her academic ability, exemplary citizenship, and her commitment to learning and mastering a foreign language of critical importance.

While studying in Chandigarh, India, Ilene studied at the Punjabi Summer Institute and focused on creating a strong foundation for both her language fluency and her cultural competency. She participated in daily educational activities and built relationships with young leaders from all over the world with a focus on the Punjabi language, one of the thirteen "critical needs" foreign languages determined by the Department of State. The CLS program—a key component of the National Security Language Initiative—provides fully-funded, group-based, language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences to U.S. students overseas. The accelerated program of study over 8–10 weeks is approximately equivalent to one full year of language study, and includes extracurricular activities designed to supplement the formal curriculum.

Ilene is a student at the New College of Florida. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international educational and developmental experiences such as these. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ilene Gillispie's achievements and wishing her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be on the Floor for rollcall vote 659. Had I been present I would have emphatically voted "no."

RECOGNIZING AMANDA MICHETTI AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Amanda Michette, of Springfield, as a 2012 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) recipient. Amanda was selected for this competitive award based on her academic ability and her commitment to learning and mastering a foreign language of critical importance.

While studying in Amman, Jordan, she was a participant in the Arabic Summer institute and focused on improving both her language fluency and her cultural competency. The CLS program—a key component of the National Security Language Initiative—provides fully-funded, group-based, intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences to U.S. students overseas. The accelerated program of study over 8–10 weeks is approximately equivalent to one full

year of language study, and includes extracurricular activities designed to supplement the formal curriculum.

Amanda is a student at James Madison University. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international education and developmental experiences such as these. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Amanda Michette's achievements and wishing her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I missed two votes because my flight from Little Rock to the Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) was cancelled along with a number of others because the airport was closed due to fog. I flew into Reagan National Airport later in the evening.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 627 (H.R. 4606) and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 628 (S. 3193).

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN BISSELL AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Benjamin Bissell, of Fairfax Station, as a recipient of the 2012 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) and a participant in the CLS Russian program.

The CLS Program, created in 2006 as a key component of the National Security Language Initiative, has had more than 3,350 participants who have acquired specific skill sets in business and language, as well as cultural perspectives unique to their experiences. The CLS Russian program covers approximately one academic year of university-level Russian study over an eight-week period. Mr. Bissell, a fourth year student at the University of Virginia, studied in Vladimir, Russia, for the entirety of the program.

Mr. Bissell followed his passion for politics in demography and linguistics, specifically Russian, which led him to the program. With his admirable determination to learn more about the international impact of demography, and to enhance his cultural experiences and knowledge, he successfully completed the program and was awarded this outstanding scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Benjamin Bissell's achievements and wishing him continued success in his future academic and professional pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker. I was not present during the rollcall vote No. 623, on December 12, 2012. I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate it on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Through educational and innovative public programs, WRAP is credited with keeping Washington area alcohol related death rates consistently below the national average. Programs and resources include Youth Outreach, Adult Outreach, and Public Education programs designed to educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1993, 55,851 free cab rides have been provided, preventing possible accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their lives in alcohol-related car accidents; 60% of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased to 9,878.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2012 Law Enforcement Award of Excellence recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Officer Brandon Smith, City of Alexandria Police Department

Officer Avery Carroll, Arlington County Police Department

Police Officer Harold Morris, Fairfax County Police Department

Deputy Alexander Brackley, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Trooper John W. Cabrera, Maryland State Police

Officer Roderick Saunders, Metropolitan Police Department

Police Officer John Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police

Corporal Christopher Lord, Prince George's County Police Department

Police Officer Jeremy A. Schenck, Prince William County Police Department

Officer Ronald Pisano, United States Park Police

Senior Trooper Michael S. Middleton, Virginia State Police

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Law Enforcement Award of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 30 years of public service. I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President Kurt Erickson for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have truly saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.